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LETTER DATED 5 MAY 1993 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to the statement of the President of the Security Council dated 29 January 1993 in connection with the Council's consideration of the situation in Georgia (S/25198). In that statement, the Security Council expressed its grave preoccupation regarding the further deterioration of the situation in Abkhazia and called on all parties immediately to cease the fighting and to observe and implement faithfully the terms of the Moscow agreement of 3 September 1992 (S/24523).

In its statement, the Security Council also shared my observation, as stated in my report on the situation in Abkhazia (S/25188), that the restoration of a viable peace process, based on the agreement of 3 September 1992, might require more active support by the international community. To this end, the Council endorsed my proposal to send a new mission to Georgia to review the situation in Abkhazia, assess the overall political situation and discuss and provide advice on practical matters such as the establishment and monitoring of an immediate cease-fire, the monitoring of the border in Abkhazia between Georgia and the Russian Federation, and the protection of the railway and communication links in Abkhazia. The Council stressed in this regard the need to ensure effective coordination between the activities of the United Nations and those of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

In view of the present situation in Abkhazia, which has further deteriorated since the adoption of the Presidential statement of 29 January 1993, I have come to the conclusion that the dispatch of another visiting mission, as I had originally envisaged, would not be an adequate approach in attempting to revive the peace process. I believe that a more concentrated effort is needed for the establishment of a lasting cease-fire and for the resumption of a process of political negotiation.

I have accordingly decided, after the necessary consultations, to appoint Ambassador Edouard Brunner (Switzerland) as my Special Envoy for Georgia. His tasks, based on the 3 September 1992 agreement, will be as follows:

(a) To obtain agreement on a cease-fire;

(b) To assist the parties in reviving the process of negotiations to find a political solution to the conflict;

(c) To enlist the support of neighbouring countries and others concerned in achieving the above objectives.

I have asked Ambassador Brunner to report to me on the results achieved after an initial period of three months, at which time I will make a decision on whether to extend his appointment.

Ambassador Brunner, who is planning to undertake his first mission to the region in the second half of the current month, will consult closely with the Chairman-in-Office of the CSCE.

I should be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI